

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Douglas** Ref: **116**  
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **239**  
Category: **G** Date(s): **15/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	22
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>239</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns Competition. Your group supplied a very comprehensive entry form along with an outline of a 5-year plan and a very informative narrative describing your area, your work to date and your plans for the future. A busy and thriving area like Douglas has many opportunities as well as challenges that will continuously develop and must be allowed for.

### The Built Environment:

Douglas Court Shopping Centre was very neat and well kept on day of visit. McDonald's was well landscaped. The rear of the cinema here looked very poor with a lot of graffiti. The back area of the Permanent TSB was being worked on at time of survey and there was a lot of debris here. The AIB building was in good order. The disused Esso station, a familiar site around Ireland, looked bad. Douglas Village shopping centre is looking jaded but is undergoing a renovation at the moment. The Topaz petrol station needs paint and landscaping. The front of the Permanent TSB building looks poor also with weeds, redundant signage and other paraphernalia. Barry's needs a clean-up. St Columba's Hall looked very well kept, neat and tidy. The veterinary hospital has a nice sign and colours. Opposite, Exham House is nicely planted and with lots of Virginia creeper. Maryborough Lodge is very impressive but the window frames need painting. The RC church and hall (formerly) the girls' national school are both beautiful, in great colours and immaculately kept. The COI church and grounds were very neat. The ICA hall had nice planters and the repaired wall was noted. The Credit Union looks great, the 1d weathervane is a lovely touch. Some derelict houses were noted on this street.

### Landscaping:

Landscaping is needed at the Topaz (formerly Shell) station. The main street would benefit from some tree planting. The planters at the Legion of Mary Hall are nice. The trees at the Garda station were noted but more could be planted here. The roundabout here is lovely, well done. The steps, seats and small park area here up to the Garda Station are very nice. Nice trees, old and new were noted on Church street and relief Road. The copper beech in the grounds of the RC church was admired. The RC graveyard is not totally neat but this is better for wildlife. The wooden design of the litterbins in the Community Park is very good. The entrance to Shamrock Lawns was admired. There is nice planting at the junction with Ballybrack heights, tucked up in the corner. The quality of the planting and hanging baskets at the Credit Union was also to be commended.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your entry refers to butterfly park and estuary but no other details were given. Your plans to extend the trail from the Park to the Wood are excellent. Please give more details, locations of projects, etc. in future applications. The beech hedgerow was noted. Was this planted by the Tidy Towns Committee?

#### **Litter Control:**

Some litter was noted on day of visit. The area around the shopping centre and onto the main street had some litter. Not all dog owners are as conscientious as they might be. There was some older litter on Marlborough Hill. The community park was practically litter-free

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on the segregation of waste in your litter-picks. Your planned liaison with businesses and the positive PR will be necessary for you to tackle this issue. You should also contact your local authority's environmental awareness officer for advice in this matter.

#### **Tidiness:**

Major works were taking place in Douglas at time of survey and this has been taken into account. Several signs need to be repainted. Signs at Clermont Ave need to be fixed. The 'Welcome to Douglas' sign and planting at the bridge was noted. The name sign on Church Street could be made to stand out a little better. The bins at Main Street need to be cleaned. Several businesses need to tackle weeds as this looks poor. Some graffiti were seen on signs in the community park. The wooden litterbins in the Community Park look very well. The recycling centre here was practically spotless, despite being very busy on day of adjudication.

#### **Residential Areas:**

There is nice beech hedging and mature beech trees at the front of Reeve's Wood. The gardens at Woodview are nice. There are pavement works ongoing at Endsleigh but it is otherwise very nice. Grattan Park is very nice also; it's green, trees, plants and houses all being very well kept. Marlborough estate looks very well kept also. Some site works were going on on Marlborough Ave at time of survey. The lime trees here are very nice. The wall and sign at Douglas Lawn need some paint. Shamrock Lawn is very nicely laid out with good quality mature trees and a well kept lawn. The entrance to Ballybrack Heights was admired too.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Douglas Community Park is lovely. The Community Centre here looks well used but well cared for too. The approach from Passage West is very pleasant. It is very green and the signs do really let you know that Douglas is next. The effects of wise tree-planting in the past has paid off on many of Douglas' streets and gives a very softened impression of a busy area.

#### **General Impression:**

Away from the bustle of the streets and the din of road and construction works, many quiet and pleasant places are to be found in Douglas. There is evidence that many are proud of this area and are doing their part to keep the 'village' feel to this part of Cork. You have highlighted many of the issues that your area faces in your outline 5-year Plan. Continuing to work in co-operation with other organisations and agencies will be crucial to the success you will have in tackling these.